

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SWF-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

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E.O.: 11652:

SUBJ: PL 480 GRAIN SORGHUM AT MAIDUGURI

1. RFFPC MOORE VISITED NIGERIA OCTOBER 19-26 IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT GRAIN, AND ASSISTED TOM WORRICK (USAID LAGOS), CONTACTED FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA, LOCAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS, WFP REP SMITH (MAIDUGURI) AND NIGERIAN TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL. OCTOBER 23-24 MOORE AND WORRICK VISITED MAIDUGURI.

2. ACCORDING TO RECORDS, 2,525 MT GRAIN SORGHUM IS LOCATED IN MAIDUGURI DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

- A) 306 MT RECENTLY ARRIVED WITH AMERICAN CONDOR.
- B) 700 MT SORED IN WAREHOUSE WHICH HAS BEEN ON HAND SINCE MAY/JUNE 1974.
- C) 1,519 MT STACKED OUTDOORS UNDER TARPAULIN SINCE MAY/JUNE 1974 ALSO.

3. IN GENERAL, CONDITION OF GRAIN APPEARS TO RANGE FROM GOOD BROWN/YELLOW COLOR TO BLACK MOLDY CAKE. ALSO MOST BAGS APPEARED TO CONTAIN LARGE AMOUNTS DOCKAGE/FOREIGN MATTER. TWELVE SAMPLES WERE TAKEN OF THE GRAIN AND ARE BEING POUCHED TO J.R. JOHNSON, FFP/AID/W FOR ANALYSIS BY USDA. SAMPLES ALSO INCLUDE SOME

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SORGHUM DONATED BY FED. FED SORGHUM APPEARED DARKER BROWN

IN COLOR THAN US GRAIN AND SHOWED SOME DAMAGE, HOWEVER THIS GRAIN IS REMAINDER OF FED EARLIER GRANT AND THAT NOW LOCATED MAIDUGURI IS SCHEDULED FOR DESTRUCTION. FOR PURPOSES OF COMPARISON WE TOOK TWO SAMPLES OF FED GRAIN (BAG NO. 1 AND NO. 2). OTHER SAMPLES ARE IN BAGS NUMBERED 3 TO 9 AS FOLLOWS:

A) NOS. 3, 4 AND 5 FROM SACKS DELIVERED FROM AMERICAN CONDOR MARKED WITH CONTRACT NUMBERS PV-BP-2209 AND HO-BP-1000.

B) BAG NO. 6 OF GRAIN IN WORST CONDITION. CONTRACT NUMBER PV-BP-2181.

C) BAGS NOS. 7 AND 8 ARE FROM GRAIN STORED OUTDOORS UNDER TARPULIN. CONTRACT NUMBER PV-BP-2166. SEE COMMENT PARA BELOW.

D) BAG NO. 9, A SAMPLE FROM GRAIN WHICH HAS BEEN SORTED AND APPEARS SATISFACTORY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. CONTRACT NUMBER PV-BP-2166.

E) THREE UNNUMBERED BAGS OF SAMPLES FROM GRAIN STORED IN WAREHOUSE WHICH SHOWED EVIDENCE OF INFESTATION AND DAMAGE. SEE PARA BELOW.

4. BEST LOOKING OF ENTIRE LOT IS 306 MT RECENTLY DELIVERED TO MAIDUGURI.

BELIEVE THIS GRAIN IS SATISFACTORY CONDITION AND RECOMMEND THAT IT BE MOVED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO NIGER, ASSUMING IT CAN BE USED THERE. 700 MT STORED IN WAREHOUSE ON BARE CONCRETE FLOOR, PACKED TIGHT WITH NO POSSIBILITY FOR AIR CIRCULATION. GRAIN WILL BE REMOVED FROM WAREHOUSE AND STACKED OUTSIDE AND WILL BE FUMIGATED. HOWEVER, SOME OF THIS GRAIN LOOKED IN SUCH POOR CONDITION THAT FUMIGATION MAY NOT RENDER IT FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. REMAINING GRAIN (1,519 MT) IS BEING "SORTED", THAT IS, IT IS COLLECTED IN ONE LARGE PILE AND WOMEN WITH LARGE BOWLS SCOOP IT UP, WALK A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY AND SLOWLY POUT IT OUT PERMITTING THE WIND TO BLOW THE DUST AWAY, ADMITTED AN UNSCIENTIFIC METHOD BUT THE SITUATION IN MAIDUGURI PERMITS LITTLE ELSE. THE WFP REP FEELS THAT THIS IS ONLY METHOD POSSIBLE FOR ANY KIND OF "SORTING" AND THAT MUCH CAN BE SALVAGED IN THIS MANNER. HOWEVER, UNTIL USDA HAS HAD TIME TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS ON SORGHUM SAMPLES WE FEEL THIS GRAIN SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR HUMAN FEEDING.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: GIVEN THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE GRAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIVELY POOR STORAGE CONDITIONS AND POSSIBILITY THAT FURTHER STORAGE MAY INTENSIFY PROBLEMS OF INFESTION AND DETERIORATION, SALE TO LOCAL FEED MILL WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, SINCE GRAIN WAS BROUGHT GREAT DISTANCE AT HEAVY EXPENSE FOR FEEDING POPULATIONS IN DIFFICULTIES, AND IF NIGER SITUATION SUCH THAT ADDITIONAL GRAIN REQUIRED, GRAIN COULD BE USED FOR PURPOSE ORIGINALLY INTENDED, ALTHOUGH COUNTRY OF DESTINATION NOW SHOULD BE CHANGED. ACCORDING, RFFPC RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING:

A) 306 MT (PARA 2A ABOVE) SHOULD BE MOVED ASAP
TO NIGER. LOCAL FREIGH FORWARDED CAN ACCOMPLISH
THIS WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY. REQUEST AID/W CONCURRENCE.
B) 700 MT (PARA 2B ABOVE) SHOULD BE FUMIGATED AND WE
SHOULD AWAIT RESULTS OF FUMIGATION BEFORE FINAL DETERMINATION
MADE. HOWEVER, RFFPC NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT GRAIN WILL BE
RENDERED EDIBLE.
C) REMAINING 1,519 MT, SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SORTED
EVEN THOUGH METHODS UNSCIENTIFIC AND RUDIMENTARY AND
ALTHOUGH THIS MAKE TAKE SOME TIME, I.E., POSSIBLY TWO
MONTHS. (LATTER QUESTION OF DELAY IN "SORTING" HAS
PROMPTED RECOMMENDATION TO CONSIDER SALE TO LOCAL
FEED MILLER.) FINAL RESULTS OF SORTING DIFFICULT TO
ESTIMATE BUT COULD BE AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT INEDIBLE.

6. RE BAGGING OF GRAIN, WE HAVE HEARD SEVERAL ADVERSE COMMENTS
ON POLYETHYLENE WEB BAGS, ESPECIALLY THAT THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO
STACK (SLIPPERY), TEND TO BURST MORE EASILY THAN BURLAP BAGS, DO
NOT PERMIT "BREATHING" AS BURLAP DOES AND AGGRAVATE MOISTURE
DAMAGE BECAUSE THEY GENERATE MORE EXTERNAL HEAT THAN BURLAP.
WOULD APPRECIATE AID/USDA COMMENTS.

7. FOR GRAIN WHICH MUST BE DESTROYED, RECOMMEND BEST METHOD
WOULD BE TO BURY GRAIN. THIS CAN BE DONE BY FORWARDER NEARBY
STORAGE AREA IN MAIDUGURI.

8. MOORE RETURNING OCTOBER 26 TO ABIDJAN AND WOULD APPRECIATE
AID/W COMMENT RE FOREGOING. GRAIN SAMPLES WILL BE
POUCHED BY USAID LAGOS WHICH WILL ADVISE REGISTRY NUMBERS
AND DATE OF POUCHING. DECONTROL DEC 31, 1974.
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